

CLAIMS

I CLAIM AS MY INVENTION:

1. An apparatus for guiding a work piece through a cutting device, the

5 apparatus comprising:

a body;

a first leg attached to the body and extending downward to form a first leg non-slip work piece-contacting surface;

10 a second leg attached to the body and extending downward to form a second leg non-slip work piece-contacting surface;

a center leg moveably attached to the body and extending downward between the first leg and the second leg to form a center leg non-slip work piece-contacting surface, the center leg fixable in any one of a plurality of positions; and

15 a handle moveably attached to a top of the body and fixable in any one of a plurality of positions.

2. An apparatus for guiding a work piece through a cutting device, the

apparatus comprising:

a body having a top and an underside opposed the top;

20 a first leg attached to the body and forming a first side surface, the first leg extending below the underside of the body to form a first leg work piece-contacting surface; and

a center leg attached against the underside of the body and extending below the underside of the body to form a center leg work piece-contacting surface, the center leg moveable to a plurality of positions relative to the first side surface to form a first tunnel having a selected width through which a cutting device may pass, the first tunnel defined by the first leg, the center leg and the underside of the body.

3. The apparatus of claim 2, further comprising:

30 a second leg attached to the body opposed the first leg and forming a second side surface, the second leg extending below the underside of the body to form a second leg work piece-contacting surface; and

wherein the center leg is moveable to a plurality of positions between the first leg and the second leg to form a second tunnel having a selected width through which a cutting device may pass, the second tunnel defined by the second leg, the center leg and the underside of the body.

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4. The apparatus of claim 3, further comprising the first leg having a width different than a width of the second leg.

5. The apparatus of claim 2, further comprising a handle extending above the top of the body, the handle being attachable to the body at a plurality of positions relative to the first leg and the center leg.

6. The apparatus of claim 2, further comprising a non-slip surface formed on each of the first work piece-contacting surface and the center work piece-contacting surface.

7. The apparatus of claim 2, further comprising a spacer removably attached to the first leg and having a spacer side surface remote from the first side surface and having a spacer bottom surface, the spacer attachable to the first leg in a plurality of positions to extend the spacer bottom surface below a plane of the first leg work piece-contacting surface.

8. The apparatus of claim 2, further comprising:
a spacer having a non-slip surface and a slip surface opposed the non-slip surface; and

the spacer being selectively attachable to the first leg to position one of the slip surface and the non-slip surface as a spacer bottom surface.

9. The apparatus of claim 3, further comprising:
the first, second and center leg work piece-contacting surfaces being disposed in a first plane; and

a balance support attached to one of the first leg and the second leg, the balance support comprising a bottom support surface extendable to a position below the first plane.

- 5 10. The apparatus of claim 2, further comprising:
 a spacer attached to the first leg and moveable to a plurality of vertical positions relative to the body;
 a stabilizing plate attached to the spacer and having a stabilizing plate edge extending under the first leg and moveable to a selected one of a plurality of horizontal
10 10 positions.

11. The apparatus of claim 10, further comprising a hook formed in the stabilizing plate edge.

- 15 12. The apparatus of claim 10, further comprising:
 an open-ended slot formed in the spacer;
 a shoulder washer;
 a bolt attached to the stabilizing plate and extending through the shoulder washer; and
20 20 the shoulder washing being sized to form a snug fit when inserted into the open-ended slot to attach the stabilizing plate to the spacer.

13. The apparatus of claim 2, further comprising:
 a shield comprising a connector to position the shield at a first position relative to
25 25 the body;
 the shield further comprising a second connector to position the shield at a second position relative to the body.

- 30 14. The apparatus of claim 2, further comprising:
 a keyway formed in the top of the body;
 a shield comprising a first key for insertion into the keyway to position the shield
at a first position relative to the body;

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the shield further comprising a second key for insertion into the keyway to position the shield at a second position relative to the body.

15. The apparatus of claim 14, further comprising:

- 5 a handle;
 a nut disposed in the keyway; and
 a bolt extending through a hole formed in the handle and threaded into the nut for connecting the handle to the body.

10 16. The apparatus of claim 2, further comprising a tapering device comprising a first edge extending to make parallel contact with an edge of the work piece and a second edge moveable to a plurality of angles with respect to the first edge.

15 17. The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the tapering device comprises:

- 15 a bottom plate;
 a top plate pivotally attached to the bottom plate and fixable at a plurality of angles in relation thereto;
 a first memory stop connected to the bottom plate for abutting the top plate when it is positioned at a first of the plurality of angles; and
20 a second memory stop connected to the bottom plate for abutting the top plate when it is positioned at a second of the plurality of angles.

18. An apparatus for guiding a work piece through a cutting device, the apparatus comprising:

- 25 a structure defining a tunnel through which a cutting device may pass, the structure comprising at least two work piece-contacting surfaces for applying force to a work piece on each of two opposed sides of the cutting device; and
 a means for adjusting a width of the tunnel to accommodate a plurality of cut geometries.

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19. The apparatus of claim 18, further comprising a non-slip surface formed on each of the work piece-contacting surfaces.

20. The apparatus of claim 18, further comprising a means for balancing the structure when the work piece has a width insufficient to make contact with the work piece-contacting surfaces on both opposed sides of the cutting device.

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21. The apparatus of claim 18, further comprising a means attached to the structure for maintaining an edge of the work piece at a selected one of a plurality of angles with respect to a cut line.

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22. An apparatus for guiding a work piece through a cutting device, the apparatus comprising:

a structure defining a tunnel through which a cutting device may pass, the structure comprising at least two work piece-contacting surfaces for applying force to a work piece on each of two opposed sides of the cutting device; and

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a handle attached to the structure and moveably fixable at any one of a plurality of positions along a width of the structure for positioning the handle relative to the tunnel.

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23. The apparatus of claim 22, further comprising the handle being moveably fixable at a position wherein a longitudinal axis of the handle is disposed at an angle relative to a longitudinal axis of the tunnel.

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24. An apparatus for guiding a work piece through a cutting device, the apparatus comprising:

a structure comprising at least one work piece-contacting surfaces for applying force to urge a work piece past a cutting device; and

a balance support moveably attached to the structure at any one of a plurality of positions to extend a bottom surface of the balance support to a position below a plane of the at least one work piece-contacting surface.

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25. The apparatus of claim 24, further comprising a means for moveable attaching the balance support to the structure so that the bottom surface of the balance

support may be positioned in a plane that is not parallel to the plane of the at least one work piece-contacting surface.

26. An apparatus for guiding a work piece through a cutting device, the
5 apparatus comprising:

a structure defining a tunnel through which a cutting device may pass, the structure comprising at least two work piece-contacting surfaces for applying force to a work piece on each of two opposed sides of the cutting device; and

each of the at least two work-piece-contacting surfaces comprising a non-slip
10 surface.

27. The apparatus of claim 26, wherein the structure comprises a first leg and a second leg each extending to form a respective work piece-contacting surface; and

15 a means for adjusting the relative positions of the first leg and the second leg to adjust a width of the tunnel.

28. An apparatus for guiding a work piece through a cutting device, the apparatus comprising:

20 a first structure defining a first tunnel through which a cutting device may pass, the first structure comprising at least two work piece-contacting surfaces for applying force to a work piece on each of two opposed sides of the cutting device;

25 a second structure defining a second tunnel through which the cutting device may pass after having passed through the first tunnel, the second structure comprising at least two work piece-contacting surfaces for applying force to the work piece on each of two opposed sides of the cutting device; and

a bridge connecting the first structure and the second structure to align the first tunnel and the second tunnel along a line of the cutting device.

29. The apparatus of claim 28, wherein the bridge further comprises:

30 a first plate attached to the first structure and the second structure;

a second plate pivotally attached to the first plate and fixable at any one of a plurality of positions with respect to the first plate.